

Three classes of vows:

1. Pratimoksha (self-liberation) vow

Tibetan: - སོ་སོ་ཐར་པའི་སྡོམ་པ། / སོ་ཐར་གྱི་སྡོམ་པ། - *So so Thar pai Dom pa / So Thar gyi Dom pa*

(*So so*=individual, self, *Thar pa*=liberation, *Dom pa*=vow)

2. Bodhisattva vow

Tibetan: རྩ་ཚུབ་སེམས་དཔའི་སྡོམ་པ། / རྩ་སྡོམ། - *Jang chub sem pai Dom pa / Jang Dom*

(*Jang chub sem pa* = Bodhisattva, *Dom pa* = Vow)

3. Tantric vow

Tibetan: གསང་སྒྲགས་གྱི་སྡོམ་པ། - *Sang Ngag gi Dom pa* (*Sang*= secret, *Ngag*=tantra, mantra, *Dom pa*=vow)

Pratimoksha Vow

Two types of Pratimoksha vow:

1. Lay vow

Tibetan: - དགེ་བསྙེན་གྱི་སྡོམ་པ། - *Ge nyen gyi Dom pa* (*Ge nyen*=literally: approacher to virtue [or] lay person

with the Pratimoksha vow, lay practitioner, *Dom pa*=vow)

2. Vow of the ordained

Tibetan: རབ་བྱུང་གི་སྡོམ་པ། - *Rab jung gi Dom pa* (*Rab jung*=ordained, *Dom pa*=vow)

Three sets of lay vows

1. One-day vow (eight vows)

Tibetan: བསྟེན་གནས་གྱི་སྡོམ་པ། - *Nyen nae kyi Dom pa* (*Nyen nae*= literally: abiding in approaching [virtue],

Dom pa=vow)

2. Lay men vow (five vows)

Tibetan: དགེ་བསྟེན་པའི་སྡོམ་པ། - *Ge nyen pha'i Dom pa* (*Ge nyen*=literally: approacher to virtue [or] lay person

with the Pratimoksha vow, lay practitioner, *pha*=male gender particle, *Dom pa*=vow)

3. Lay women vow (five vows)

Tibetan: དགེ་བསྟེན་མའི་སྡོམ་པ། - *Gen nyen ma'i Dom pa* (*Ge nyen*=literally: approacher to virtue [or]

lay person with the Pratimoksha vow, lay practitioner, *ma*=female gender particle, *Dom pa*=vow)

Eight one-day vows:

1. Not killing, 2. Not stealing, 3. Not lying, 4. Not engaging in sexual activity, 5. Not taking intoxicants,
6. Not singing and dancing, 7. Not taking food after noon, 8. Not using high and luxurious seats or beds

Five laymen/-women vows:

1. Not killing, 2. Not stealing, 3. Not lying, 4. Not engaging in sexual misconduct, 5. Not taking intoxicants

Six types of lay practitioners:

1. Lay practitioner who (merely) takes refuge in the three jewels

Tibetan: སྐྱབས་འགྲོའི་དགེ་བསྟན་ན། - *Kyab dro'i Ge nyen* (*kyab* = refuge, *dro* = go)

2. Lay practitioner who only observes one of the five lay vows

Tibetan: ལྷ་གཅིག་དགེ་བསྟན་ན། - *Na chig Ge nyen* (*na chig* = one kind)

3. Lay practitioner who observes only two of the five lay vows

Tibetan: ལྷ་འགའི་དགེ་བསྟན་ན། - *Na ga'i Ge nyen* (*na ga* = some)

4. Lay practitioner who observes three of the five lay vows

Tibetan: ཕལ་ཆེར་དགེ་བསྟན་ན། - *Phael cher Ge nyen* (*phael cher* = most)

5. Lay practitioner who observes all the five lay vows

Tibetan: ཡོངས་རྫོགས་དགེ་བསྟན་ན། - *Yong dzog Ge nyen* (*yong dzog* = complete, all)

6. Lay practitioner who (observes the five lay vows and) is celibate

Tibetan: ཚངས་སྤྱོད་དགེ་བསྟན་ན། - *Tsang Choe Ge nyen* (*tsang* = pure, clean, *choe* = conduct)

Five sets of vows of the ordained

1. Male novice vow (thirty-six vows)

Tibetan: དགེ་ལྡན་ཕའི་སྤྱོད་པ། - *Ge tsul pha'i Dom pa* (*Ge* = virtue, *tsul* = mode, manner, conduct, *pha* = male gender particle)

2. Female novice vow (thirty-six vows)

Tibetan: དགེ་ལྡན་མའི་སྤྱོད་པ། - *Ge tsul ma'i Dom pa* (*Ge* = virtue, *tsul* = mode, manner, conduct, *ma* = female gender particle)

3. Postulant/Probationer nun's vow (a novice nun on two years' probation before being ordained as a fully ordained nun, observing the six root Dharmas and the six auxiliary Dharmas in addition to her novice vows)

Tibetan: དགེ་སྦྱོང་མའི་སྤྱོད་པ། - *Ge lob ma'i Dom pa* (*Ge* = virtue, *lob* = learn, train, follow)

4. Fully ordained monk's vow (253 vows)

Tibetan: དགེ་ལྷན་པའི་སྒྲུབ་པ། - *Ge long pha'i Dom pa* (*Ge* = virtue, *long* = arouse, collect,

pha = male gender particle)

5. Fully ordained nun's vows (364 vows)

Tibetan: དགེ་ལྷན་པའི་སྒྲུབ་པ། - *Ge long ma'i Dom pa* (*Ge* = virtue, *long* = arouse, collect,

ma = female gender particle)

Bodhisattva Vow

The Eighteen Transgressions of the Bodhisattva Vows which are Downfalls:

1. Praising oneself and disparaging others (out of craving reward or respect for oneself)
2. Not giving teachings or wealth
3. Not heeding the confession in others or striking them in anger
4. Rejecting the Universal Vehicle or giving a counterfeit of the excellent teachings
5. Stealing what belongs to the three Jewels
6. Rejecting the teachings
7. Taking away the robes of an ordained person
8. Committing any of the five heinous crimes
9. Holding wrong views (e.g. holding the view that karmic actions do not have results and that there are no past and future lives.)
10. Destroying towns and so forth
11. Explaining emptiness to the unprepared
12. Encouraging another to give up the intention to attain complete enlightenment
13. Encouraging another to give up the Pratimoksha (self-liberation) vows
14. Disparaging the Fundamental Vehicle
15. Telling a lie about the profound
16. Taking what has been offered to the three Jewels
17. Following bad discipline
18. Giving up Bodhicitta

The Forty-six Transgressions which are Faulty Actions:

1. Not making offerings to the three Jewels through physical homage, praise and faith
2. Following thoughts of desire
3. Not respecting one's seniors
4. Giving no answers to questions
5. Not accepting invitations
6. Not taking such things as gold
7. Not giving to those who seek teachings
8. Disdaining the immoral
9. Not training for the sake of others' faith
10. Doing too little for the good of living beings
11. Not doing out of compassion what is otherwise non-virtuous
12. Readily accepting a wrong livelihood
13. Getting very excited through distraction
14. Thinking to travel only in cyclic existence

15. Failing to prevent defamation
16. Not correcting even those with disturbing emotions
17. Abuse in return for abuse, and so forth
18. Ignoring those who are angry
19. Disregarding others' excuses
20. Following thoughts of anger
21. Gathering followers out of desire for reward and respect
22. Not getting rid of laziness and so forth
23. Indulging in gossip with passion
24. Not seeking the object of meditative stabilization
25. Not eliminating the hindrances to concentration
26. Appreciating the taste of concentration (becoming attached to concentration)
27. Giving up the Fundamental Vehicle
28. Effort in that, despite having one's own method (the universal vehicle teachings)
29. Without effort except for non-Buddhist treatises
30. Making effort (in the study of non-Buddhist treatises) and also liking them
31. Rejecting the Universal Vehicle
32. Praising oneself or disparaging others (either out of pride or animosity)
33. Not giving for the teachings
34. Deprecating them and relying upon the letter
35. Not being a friend in need
36. Refusing to serve the sick
37. Not removing suffering
38. Not teaching the careless what is proper
39. Not repaying a virtuous deed
40. Not assuaging others' grief
41. Not giving to those who want wealth
42. Not working for the welfare of others
43. Not conforming to others' ideas
44. Not speaking in praise of good qualities
45. Not punishing to fit the circumstances
46. Not using miraculous feats to threaten and so forth

How to lose the Bodhisattva vow:

One loses all the vows when one holds wrong views (9) and when one gives up Bodhicitta (18). Transgressing the other sixteen vows of the eighteen root vows does not constitute a root downfall unless all the four binding factors are present

The four binding factors:

Tibetan: ཀུན་དགེས་བཞི། - *Kuen tri Zhi* (*Kuen tri* = binding factor, *Zhi* = four)

1. Not giving up the desire to act in a particular way and still wanting to do it
2. Taking joy and delight in it
3. Lacking shame and embarrassment
4. Not regarding the action as faulty

